

June 9, 1981

Mr. Forest Lipscomb
Indiv
401 W. McDaniel
Springfield, Missouri 65806

Dear Mr. Lipscomb:

I am writing this letter to report the results of the tests that the City's Water Pollution Control Section conducted in regards to your complaint of a solvent odor entering your building at 401 W. McDaniel.

Personnel from this office conducted a smoke test of the sewer main on Campbell Street between McDaniel and College. As you know, smoke entered your building through the ceiling tile of a downstairs office.

An inspection of the same piece of sewer main by the TV crew, revealed several taps on the west side of the sewer main. Two of these tap-ins are in the same general area where the smoke entered your building. The results of these two tests indicate that there is apparently a lateral line there that was never capped off when the remodeling on the building was done.

The fact that gases are entering your building from the sewer indicate that potentially serious health and safety hazards exist on your premises. Some of the most common dangerous gases that exist in sewers and their hazards (see Manual of Instruction for Sewage Treatment Plant Operators by the Health Education Service) are:

Carbon-monoxide - Colorless, odorless, non-irritating. Flammable, explosive. Hemoglobin of blood has strong affinity for gas, causing oxygen starvation.

Hydrogen - Colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-poisonous, flammable. Explosive. Propagates flame rapidly. Acts mechanically to deprive tissues of oxygen. A simple asphyxiant.

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Methane - Colorless, odorless, non-poisonous. Flammable. Explosive.

Hydrogen Sulfide - Rotten egg odor in small concentrations but sense of smell rapidly impaired. Odor not evident at high concentrations. Colorless. Flammable. Explosive. Poisonous.

Carbon Dioxide - Colorless, odorless, non-flammable. Not generally present in dangerous amounts unless there is already a deficiency of oxygen.

Ethane - Colorless, tasteless, odorless, non-poisonous. Flammable. Explosive.

Gasoline Vapor - Colorless. Flammable. Explosive. Anesthetic effects when inhaled. Dangerous for even short exposure.

There are, of course, many other substances that can be present in the sanitary sewer.

If we can be of further assistance, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Yours truly,

Karen A. Chandler
Water Pollution Control Inspector II
Surveillance & Enforcement

KAC:js

cc: Mr. Robert Schaefer, P.E., Superintendent of Sanitary Services

Royal Plastic Printers

In March 1981, this office received several calls from Bill Peoples of Indiv, located at 461 W. Mc Daniel, Ill. Peoples said that there was a strong solvent odor that occasionally came in his office, which is on the south end of the building. The restroom are located on the north end of the building. I asked him to call this office when he smelled the odor and we could come and see if it was in the sewer. On April 13 he called about the odor in his office. Bob Corson & I went to his office and there was a strong solvent odor in it. We opened up manhole 12 on S Campbell and the odor was present there and we then went south from there and opened up manhole 13 and the odor was present there. There are 2 print shops on this line Royal Plastic Printers & Bob Corson and I went to Royal Plastic Printers. The owner claimed that they put very minute amounts of solvent in the sewer. Randy Lymann & Steve Short went to . They denied putting anything in the sewer. On April 10, 1981 we did a smoke test of

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April 10, 1981 We did a smoke test of
line in front of Endiv. The smoke came
into Bill Peppers office over the
ceiling tile, leading this office to believe
that there was once a lateral there
that was improperly sealed off. On
April 28, 1981 - Wayne Salmer &
Paul Elburn ran a TV camera

In regards to your ^{complaint} letter of a solvent
odor in your building

from manhole 12 to manhole 109.
I gave Mr. Peeples a copy of the
inspection sheet.

Karen Chandler